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BOOK REVIEWS

OUR AMERICA. By *Waldo Frank*. Boni and Liveright, New York City. Pp. 232. \$2.00 net.

This book is the effort of its author to interpret contemporary United States life to "Young France," which extended an invitation to him to essay the task through Gaston Gallimard, director of the publishing house of the *Nouvelle Revue Française*, and Jacques Copeau, formerly director of the magazine of the same publishing house, but for two recent seasons head of the *Theatre du Vieux Colombier*, in New York City. The author is a man in whom the democratic, international, universalizing instinct is strong and who comes at his task of explaining his nation to a Gaul without any of the prepossessions of the older racial, cultural stocks that hitherto have dominated the country, intellectually, religiously, and politically. Consequently his mingled denunciations of and slurs upon standards of the past in ethics, literature, and government will be irritating to the conservatives.

As a sign of the ferment that exists in the minds of the younger generation and the degree of revolt that has been attained the "study" has its value. It is brilliantly written, often with very keen insight. If it damns the New England of the past and the Puritan of today, it is scarcely less drastic in its attack on the sordid commercialism of New York and Chicago. One of the most informing chapters of the book is the one on "The Chosen People"—a study of Judaism and Jewry as modified by the American environment.

AT A DOLLAR A YEAR. By *Robert L. Raymond*. Marshall Jones Co., Boston. Pp. 239. \$1.50 net.

The heroes among the "swivel-chair" workers in Washington during the war get their due recognition in this collection of short stories by a civilian who was part of that which he describes. The ironies, the humors, the absurdities, the nobilities, and the efficiencies of the mighty process by which the A. E. F. was mobilized, fed, clothed, armed, transported, and inspired are set forth, not omitting the Red Cross chapter of the glory. It is well that the record of many of the subtler, finer phases of the war chapter in our national life should have been preserved in this fictional form. The statistician, the formal historian, the journalist of the period each had his work to do. The dramatist, the novelist, the painter, and sculptor, all using a large canvas, will work on the rich material at hand for a long time to come. Mr. Raymond, using a less pretentious medium and a smaller canvas, already has registered success.

THE DEGRADATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC DOGMA. By *Henry Adams*. Macmillan Co., New York. Pp. 311. \$2.50.

Since his death Henry Adams has become one of the most famous of Americans of his era, and this chiefly because of an autobiography, unusual in form, admirable in style, and disclosing the inner thought on profound subjects of a man born to the American "purple." Naturally his countrymen are now showing interest in all of his intellectual output; and this book on the alleged effect modern scientific discovery and modern philosophy have had on the dogma that the "Voice of the People is the Voice of God" is a sop thrown to the public in order to meet that curiosity.

For our part, we must confess inability to find either in the data marshaled by the author or in his reasonings thereon anything justifying the claims made by him and by the editor of the book, his brother, Brook Adams. Being a patrician, a pessimist, and a pseudo-philosopher, Henry Adams, coming under the spell of science in his old age after a flirtation with medieval religious mysticism, came to see in the condition of mankind at large naught that was good or conducive to optimism.

A book that sets forth this thesis as to democracy's failure of course comes as sweet balm at a time like this to console persons who deprecate the fall of the Hohenzollerns and Romanoffs, who would like to see reactionary parties in France, Great Britain, and the United States win back the reins of power, and who see no light for humanity save in existence defined in terms of scientific efficiency.

The editor of the book has used his opportunity to disclose

much information about himself, his brother Henry, his grandfather John Quincy Adams, and the Adams family in general, some of which information is valuable and some not. Noah's sons covered his nakedness and it was accounted unto them for righteousness; but the three sons of Charles Francis Adams—Charles, Henry, and Brooks—in their obsession for veracity and in their intellectual revolt against the faith in which they were reared, have gone a long way toward a realism in discussion of family affairs which can only be described as "group nudity." The objective historian's verdict on John Quincy Adams' career, already registered in history after history, is not that he was a failure, as his grandson tries to make it appear that he thought he was. As a matter of fact, he will live much longer on the roll of fame as a doer of history than all his hypercritical grandsons.

INTERNATIONAL WATERWAYS. By *Paul Morgan Ogilvie*. The Macmillan Co., New York City. Pp. 171, with reference manual, indices, etc. \$3.00.

The author of this essay and the maker of its accompanying exceedingly useful lists of the inland international waterways of the world and of all treaties and laws governing the international use of these waters deserves credit for producing precisely the sort of book he tried to make. The chapters dealing with the history of maritime law, its evolution and present status, are clear, compact, and yet comprehensive. The layman will find them readable. The professional student of this branch of law will find them safe. They have to do with ancient Phœnicia and Carthage, to be sure, but they also express positive opinions about the conduct of the Allies in the late war in their rough-handed sweeping away of all considerations of law and tradition, when it came to restriction of freedom of the seas and use of the blockade. The author leaves no reader in doubt as to the damaging and reactionary effect upon the law of equity and right, which custom and conscience had slowly built up, that the 1914-'19 record has had; nor has he any scruple about plainly depicting the indefensible tactics of Great Britain during several centuries, in which she defied both earlier and later ideals of maritime equality in order to build up her empire.

The main argument of the book, however, has to do with the rise and ultimate acceptance of the doctrine that arterial inland waterways should be free to a world's trade; and also, though to lesser extent, it deals with the emerging new ideal, which contends that where States lack outlets to the sea and inlets for internal navigation traffic, they must be provided with them by concessions of territory made by States having coasts that can be partitioned and so used. This theory has been defined by President Wilson in these words: "Every great people now struggling toward a full development of its resources and of its powers should be assured a direct outlet to the great highways of the sea. Where this cannot be done by the cession of territory, it can no doubt be done by the neutralization of direct rights of way under the general guarantee which will assure the peace itself."

DEUTSCHLANDS FINANZIELLE VERPFLICHTUNGEN AUS DEM FRIEDENS-VERTRAGE. By *Dr. Carl Melchoir*. Edited by the German Society for the League of Nations. Hans Robert Engelmann, Berlin. M. 1.36.

This is the first of a series of pamphlets to be called the "Burden of Peace." It deals with Germany's financial obligation under the Peace Treaty. The author, Dr. Carl Melchoir, was financial member of the peace delegation. The purpose of the series is to bring before the public the problems of the Peace Treaty, and that in popular language, especially to the end that there may be a revision of the Peace Treaty. It appears from the pamphlet that the majority of the German people do not yet know the Peace Treaty.

This series of pamphlets is but one indication of the German will to be heard wherever men and women may be listening. Further evidences of German intellectual activity are indicated by such pamphlets published under the heading *Deutschland Und Das Völkerrecht*, prepared by O. Nippold, with such captions as the following: *Die Grundsätze Der Deutschen Kriegführung*, or *Die Verletzung Der Neutralität Luxemburgs Und Belgiens*.